

Somerset Strong News 1.15.2021

Somerset Families,

Ms. Naish and I are excited to welcome back our second-grade hybrid students this week. All returning second-grade students will enter the building at the south entrance (closest to 143rd St). Please make sure you complete your child's health check prior to 8:45/12:45. Students must have this form completed prior to entering their classroom. Students need to bring a water bottle to school, a jacket/sweatshirt to wear while in class, and their charged laptop. School supplies and headphones will be provided. To limit the sharing of materials, each child will have their own bin to store their items.

A few reminders about drop-off and dismissal:

- Parents should remain in the car at all times.
- Student should remain in the car until a staff member greets them.
- If walking your child to and from school, please stay between the curb and the large columns/garden beds at the front of the school to ensure social distancing and prevent crowding in the student lines.

If you did not attend the Principal Parent Connect last week or review the Powerpoint, it is attached and full of information.

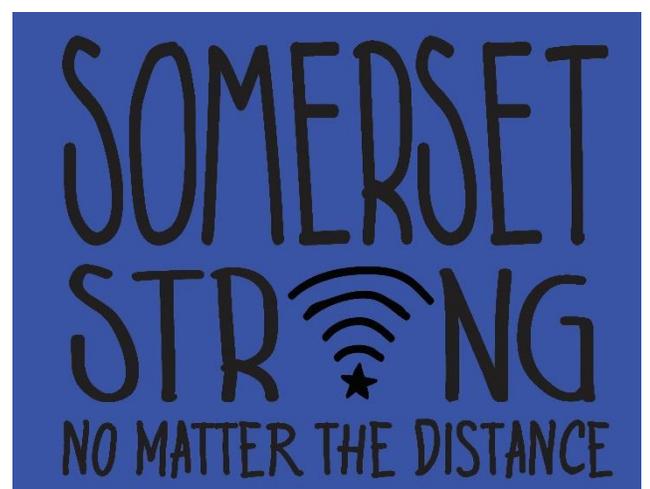
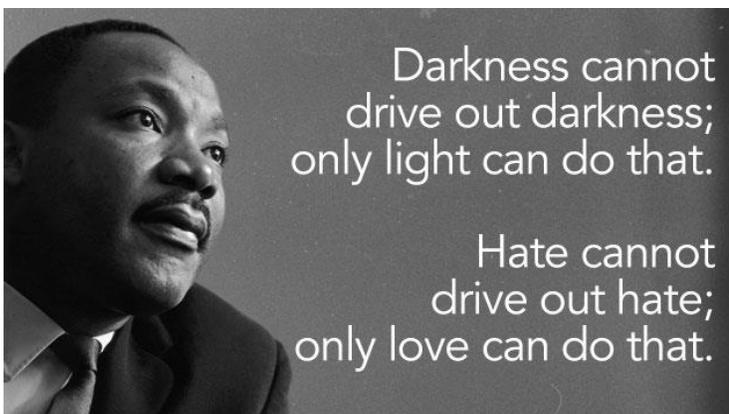
Monday is a non-school day in honor of the great Martin Luther King, Jr. I hope your family will take the time to discuss the importance of his work for our nation and how your family's story intersects and benefits from his vision and work.

It wasn't until I was fourteen years old and my family had moved to Little Rock, AR before I learned about segregation, desegregation, busing, and The Civil Rights Movement. My educational experiences shifted, and my knowledge of this American narrative became much deeper on the first day I walked up the steps of Little Rock Central High School. In 1957, this was the epicenter of confrontation and a catalyst for change as the fundamental test for the United States to enforce African American civil rights following *Brown v. Board of Education*. It was an important time in my life for me to understand the vision of MLK jr. and his impact on my education system then and now. I continue to strive to ensure that our school system is equitable and just for each and every student. A Martin Luther King, jr. quote from his famous "I Have a Dream" speech is "I have dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." My hope is that each and every Somerset Superstar feels empowered to be their unique self and celebrates the uniqueness of others recognizing the diversity of their race and culture.



In partnership!

Cathy Elkh



K-2 First Day Photos



K-2 Families, please send us your #BSDfirstday of in-person learning photos to communityrelations@bsd405.org for us to share on our social media platforms and the website!



Somerset Elementary Important Information

Check out Somerset Library Books!

Mrs. Bravenec would like to thank you all families who came on Wednesday to pick up books! We had so many there was a long line... and Mrs. Bravenec realizes having to wait in a long line was NOT ideal.

For next week, we are making some changes that will speed up the process, and **we need your help**. When you come to pick up books, **please have your child(ren)'s first and last name printed/written clearly on paper** to show at the door. (hearing kids, especially our youngest students, spell their names while wearing a mask can be tough!)

Mrs. Bravenec will also have help earlier in the day (**thank you, Mrs. Elder!!**) to have all the books pre-sorted on the carts so she won't have to search for them while families wait. Both of these changes should make the process much faster.

Please also **observe social distancing and wear a mask** when picking up. We want to keep our community safe and appreciate your support with this issue as well during the Wednesday pickup time from 3:30 – 5:30pm.

Lastly, if your family does not feel safe or comfortable checking out library books, that is totally fine. There are many great ways to access eBooks and audiobooks for free online. If you need help – using TumbleBooks, Epic, Sora, or other apps – please email Mrs. Bravenec and she will be happy to help. **Thank you!**

January Spirit Day



Student council's January spirit day is scheduled for next Friday, the 22nd. The theme this time is "Fancy Formal Day." Students are encouraged to dress in their finest attire. The class with the greatest percentage of participation will win a small prize and be featured in the assembly video.

School Pictures

Lifetouch will be taking Somerset School Pictures following Safety Protocols. All Somerset students are welcome to come by the covered area on the playground to get their photo taken at their scheduled time. Students can have their photo taken even if they do not plan to purchase the prints. The picture will be included in the yearbook, student identification cards. In addition the pictures are uploaded in our Synergy data program and are extremely helpful to staff as they provide photo identification on our in-house data base.

Dates and Hours:

- Wednesday, January 27, 12pm - 4pm
- Wednesday, February 3rd, 12pm - 4pm

Registration: Please sign up for a slot using the sign up genius

link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B48AEAA2AA46-somerset>. Please be certain to put your child's name/teacher/grade in the comments.

Ordering: If you would like to order pictures, please see the [Lifetouch flyer](#) for information.. We encourage all to pre-order pictures online [HERE](#) using code **EVTZC2T6G**.

Location: Somerset Elementary School (*under the covered basketball area **outside, in the back of the school***)

Safety Protocols: We thank you in advance for following these:

- This will be an outside event. Dress for the weather.
- Students may be accompanied by 1 parent only. We ask that students go straight to the picture-taking area near the playground in the back of the school, following physical/social distancing guidelines. Staff will be available to assist students through the line. When your student has taken their picture, we ask that you do not stay on the school grounds/playground.
- All students and staff will be masked at all times—except for the short time that the student removes the mask to take a picture.
- Physical distancing is required.

SOMERSET ELEMENTARY



Kindergarten Information Night for next year's K's!!

January 21, 2021 - 6:00-6:45 pm

Via Microsoft Teams [Click here to join the meeting](#)

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 18	No School: Martin Luther King Jr.
Jan 21	2 nd Grade In-person Learning starts for Hybrid Model Kindergarten Information Night for next Year's K's 6:00-6:45
Jan 25	1 st Grade In-person Learning starts for Hybrid Model
Jan 26	January Virtual Birthday Lunch
Jan 27	School Picture Day 12pm - 4pm
January 29 th	Non-Student Day
Feb 1	Kindergarten In-person Learning Starts for Hybrid Model
Feb 3	School Picture Day 12pm - 4pm

For more information and important dates please follow this link to our Somerset PTSA: [Link to Somerset PTSA](#)



Travel Advisory

The Bellevue School District is complying with Governor Inslee's travel advisory. From the advisory: "Washingtonians are encouraged to stay home or in their region and avoid non-essential travel to other states or countries." All students participating in in-person learning, services, or activities who have travelled out of state need to self-quarantine at home for 14-days after returning from their travels before coming back to school. [Read more about the travel advisory.](#)

By the order of the state of Washington, masks/face coverings are required in all public indoor spaces and outdoors when people cannot remain 6 feet apart. Please help your child practice wearing a face covering at home so that they will be ready to come to school.

Some health check videos for families are located here:

<https://bsd405.sharepoint.com/sites/HealthServices/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?viewid=4b9b2231%2D8ce7%2D4fd0%2Daa25%2D1f9fb324d5c7&id=%2Fsites%2FHealthServices%2FShared%20Documents%2FHealth%20Check%20Resources%2FHow%20To%2FVideos>

School Options for the 2020-21 School Year

This year, the Open Transfer (formerly Open Enrollment) and Choice School/Program application period are during the same time period – December 7, 2020 through January 15, 2021.

All applicants must be residents of the Bellevue School District at the time of application. Residency documents will be requested at the time of enrollment. (The children of fulltime BSD employees may apply.)

Siblings of current students are not guaranteed enrollment and must apply.

For more information please visit

- Open Transfer <https://bsd405.org/departments/student-placement/open-enrollment/>
- Choice Schools/Program <https://bsd405.org/schools/choice/>